

Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, to ensure we are protecting our air, land and water for our children and grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the life of this extraordinary leader, and in extending sincerest condolences to the Mondale family. Minnesota and the United States was blessed to have Walter F. Mondale provide us with a lifetime of service.

# SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 19, 2021*

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement Banking Act, or the SAFE Banking Act, of which I am an original cosponsor. I want to thank my friend Congressman PERLMUTTER as well as Chairwoman WATERS and Chairman NADLER for their leadership on this issue.

This bill creates protections for financial institutions to be able to provide financial services to state-legal cannabis businesses and ancillary businesses. This would allow these businesses to access the banking system instead of relying on cash transactions.

Marijuana is currently legal in 36 states, 4 territories and the District of Columbia for medicinal or recreational use. This is an important issue as financial institutions prohibit dealing with cannabis businesses because of its current Schedule I, federal status. We need to ensure that these legitimate businesses have access to banking services as more states have medicinal and adult use cannabis programs. Many of these businesses are operating as cash only, which has created many issues for business owners and employees and has led to safety concerns for our communities.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this and other marijuana related issues as they relate to racial and economic inequality. The SAFE Banking Act helps provide a solution to this financial issue, but we must not forget the larger systemic injustice of cannabis prohibition, which has disproportionately impacted Black and brown communities through the war on drugs. We must work together to end federal cannabis prohibition and to pass the MORE Act.

# HONORING THE LIFE OF FLOYD LITTLE

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2021*

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of legendary Syracuse University Football Player and treasured member of the Syracuse community, Mr. Floyd Little, who passed away on January 1, 2021.

Floyd Little played for the Syracuse Orange Football Team from 1964 to 1966 and donned the number 44. This iconic jersey number was assigned to some of the most accomplished

Syracuse University running backs including Jim Brown and Ernie Davis. Like these legendary athletes, Little achieved great success during his college playing career, earning three All-American Titles and was later inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

After leaving Syracuse, Little was drafted by the Denver Broncos in the 1967 and quickly emerged as a star in the National Football League (NFL). In his nine seasons in the league, Little was selected to five Pro-Bowls, amassed over 12,000 all-purpose yards, was the league's rushing leader in 1971, and was later inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 2010.

Outside of football, Floyd Little was a compassionate and kind-hearted man who dedicated much of his life to community service. He leveraged his success to give back to others and empower his neighbors. Little became a distinguished speaker for charities and fundraisers across the country and frequently donated his time to numerous philanthropic endeavors. He was particularly proud to support the annual Tom Coughlin Jay Fund fundraiser, which raises money to fight childhood cancer, and worked extensively with the Walter Camp Football Foundation, which provides athletic opportunities to youth across the country. Like his success in football, Little earned countless accolades in recognition of his generosity and commitment to serving others. Little and his family returned to the Central New York region in 2011 out of a desire to serve his alma mater and the community he loved. Central New York has undoubtedly benefitted from his presence over the past decade, and we all join his friends and family in mourning this loss.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Mr. Floyd Little. Little's athletic legacy is one that is permanently cemented in record-books and Syracuse culture, and his crowning achievements will live on for generations to come. More importantly, however, Little will be remembered as an incredibly generous man who lived his life in service to others. His charitable work remains in the hearts of the thousands of people he helped throughout his life, and he will be remembered as a towering figure who came to be admired wherever he went.

# REMEMBERING JOSEPH "JOE" R. MERLO

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2021*

Mr. RYAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Joseph "Joe" R. Merlo, who passed away on December 22, 2020.

Joe was born on June 8, 1945 and was beloved by many people in my community. He was a husband, father, uncle, great uncle, grandfather, great grandfather, cousin, and friend.

Like many who grew up in Niles, Ohio, Joe was a legend. If you didn't get your haircut by Joe at some point in your life, then you weren't really a resident of Niles.

I will always remember Joe for providing me with sage advice early in my political career. Anyone that knew Joe knew he was always fun to be around and was a true Northeast Ohioan.

My deepest sympathies go out to Joe's family and to all whose lives he touched.

# HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONNECTICUT'S OMICRON CHAPTER OF DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2021*

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the members of Connecticut's Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary—a remarkable milestone for this very special organization.

The Delta Kappa Gamma International Society is a unique organization whose membership includes tens of thousands of women educators from across the globe. Members focus on promoting their professional and personal growth—striving for excellence in education and dedicating themselves to making a difference in their students' lives, in their communities, and in the world. Over the course of the last fifty years, the members of Connecticut's Omicron Chapter have done just that.

One of sixteen chapters of Delta Kappa Gamma in the state, members of the Omicron Chapter live or work throughout the Naugatuck Valley. They have made it their mission to provide unique programs to the communities of the Valley that blend education and service. They have distributed books to newborns, young children, children of prisoners, and adult education students. Many of their members have knitted afghans and hats for both babies and cancer patients. They have helped to raise funds for UN-sponsored charities, the Ronald McDonald House, and the Umbrella, a shelter for victims of domestic abuse.

Perhaps most inspiring are Omicron's efforts on behalf of the next generations of educators. They understand the importance of nurturing those that will follow them in their professional pursuits. The Omicron chapter has sponsored the tuition for more than one-hundred fifty young women to attend Laurel Girls State, a one-week program rooted in civic education where they learn about how state and local government functions through a hands-on approach with state and local officials guiding the way. In addition, they also sponsor annual college scholarships to high school students planning to pursue careers in education.

From dedicating their professional careers to providing our young people with the strongest of foundations on which to build their future success to developing, implementing, and supporting programs that enrich the education of children outside the classroom, the Omicron chapter and its members have left an indelible mark on countless lives. I am proud to stand today to extend my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to Connecticut's Omicron Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. As we say in Italian—C'ent Anni—to another one hundred years.

CONGRATULATING JOINT STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES ON COMPLETION OF THE VETERAN INSTITUTE OF PROCUREMENT

**HON. RONNY JACKSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2021*

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joint Strategic Technologies, (JST) on their success of completion of the Veteran Institute for Procurement with gratitude and appreciation for their service to our country and with best wishes for continued success. I thank them for proudly representing our great State and showing the rest of the world our talents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2021*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on H. Res. 130, Roll Call No. 121.

TRIBUTE TO LYNETTE BRYANT FRYAR

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2021*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and a dedicated public servant, Lynette Bryant Fryar. A victim's Advocate at the Colleton County Sheriff's Department and former Chair of the Colleton County Election Commission, Ms. Fryar passed away on April 16, 2021. Her passing has left a huge void in the community.

Ms. Fryar was born in 1949 to Leon Bryant, Sr., and Pattie Mae Gruber Bryant. She graduated as the valedictorian from Ruffin High School in Colleton County, and went on to earn a degree in Secretarial Science from Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College.

She spent 36 years working for Clemson University at the Cooperative Extension Service in Colleton County. There she worked with youth development and outreach, using her care and concern for her community to build educational opportunities. She was awarded Clemson University's Outstanding Service Award for her exemplary work.

Following her retirement from the university, she chose not to slow down, but ramp up her community engagement. She spent three years working for AmeriCorps before becoming a Victims' Advocate at the Colleton County Sheriff's Department. There she continued doing what she did best, serving as a source of strength for those in need.

Ms. Fryar was very active politically. She joined the Colleton County Elections and Voter Registration Board in 2005 and served as its Chair. She continued to serve on the elections board until her death to ensure that all residents of Colleton County had access to the ballot box.

Ms. Fryar had an incredible ability to connect with people and was my MVP (most valuable proponent) in Colleton county. She believed strongly, just as I do, that we must all find something to do for which we are not paid. Her volunteer efforts were extensive, and all were focused on serving her beloved Colleton County. Her commitment to the community includes serving as a member of the S.C. Department of Education Personal Pathways Committee, the Keep Colleton Beautiful Committee, the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Futures Task Force Committee, the Lowcountry Food Bank Board, and many other boards and commissions. She was the former Director for Youth Leadership Colleton and the former Coordinator for Backpack Buddies in Colleton County. She held leadership offices with the Colleton County Branch of the NAACP, Colleton County Improvement Collaborative, the HCA Hospital Board of Trustees, the Colleton County School Board of Trustees, the American Cancer Society (Colleton County), the American Cancer Society Rehabilitation Committee (Colleton County), and the South Carolina Association of Cooperative Extension Secretaries.

Ms. Fryar remained dedicated to her alma mater and served as the liaison for Ruffin High School and the Colleton County Vocational Center. She also served on the Colleton County Transition Committee for the merger of Ruffin High School and Walterboro High School. She was also devoted to her church and served as several capacities including as a minister to the congregation.

She was married to David L. Fryar, and they are the parents of three daughters, Katrina Fryar of Columbia, South Carolina, Ronda Cropp (Jeffrey) of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Muriel Fryar of Atlanta, Georgia. She also had two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of Lynette Fryar. Her passion for Colleton County's people and places was unparalleled and her impact on her community will endure forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EL DORADO SPRINGS PATRIOT PARKWAY

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2021*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the community project of Patriot Parkway in El Dorado Springs, Missouri, which will be the adornment of 48 American flags along U.S. Highway 54 within city limits.

In a time of division, the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and members of the community have come together in an act of patriotism and unity. These flags will be displayed every year from Memorial Day to Veterans Day to commemorate our veterans and to show some American pride.

This project was a vision years ago by Jack Tough, a dedicated member of his community who unfortunately passed before he could see it through. However, his dream came true by the efforts of his son, Jackson Tough, and his

fellow members of the El Dorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, who raised funds in the community to bring Patriot Parkway to life.

Please join me in celebrating this act of patriotism and community pride.

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 19, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters of endorsement for H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

AMERICAN TRADE ASSOCIATION  
FOR CANNABIS AND HEMP,  
*April 19, 2021.*

Re Support For SAFE Banking Act Legislation.

Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,  
*Senate Majority Leader,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*  
Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*  
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
*Senate Minority Leader,*  
*U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*  
Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,  
*House Minority Leader,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER, SENATE MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, SPEAKER PELOSI, AND HOUSE MINORITY LEADER MCCARTHY: We write to you today in support of the SAFE Banking Act, legislation that will permit banks to provide services to state regulated marijuana businesses, employees, and ancillary businesses.

Unfortunately, under current federal law and regulations, state licensed and compliant cannabis businesses are unable to access banking services and are forced to operate primarily in cash. This creates an unnecessary risk to public safety for store operators, employees, and customers.

As we continue to see more states and territories move forward with the regulation of some form of adult-use marijuana, medical marijuana, or hemp derived CBD, it is essential to address the crisis the industry faces to access banking.

The threats faced by financial institutions of potential criminal prosecution for working with marijuana businesses as a result of the Controlled Substances Act are unacceptable and outdated.

We strongly support the passage of the SAFE Banking Act and it is our hope that Congress will act swiftly.

Sincerely,

American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp, Missouri Medical Cannabis, Georgia Cannabis Trade Association, Washington Cannabis Business Association, Alaska Marijuana Industry Association, MTCIA.

New Jersey Cannabis Trade Association, PCC, MICIA, Colorado Leads, HICIA, Southern California Coalition.

Maryland Wholesale Medical Cannabis Trade Association, Commonwealth Dispensary Association, DC Cannabis Trade Association, Cannabiz, Nevada Dispensary Association.